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Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Shepard Building  
255 Westminster Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2006

To: Principals of selected NAEP schools

From: Heather Heineke Agnew, Office of Assessment and Accountability

Re: NAEP 2007 Assessments in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing

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I am pleased to inform you that your school has been selected to participate in the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). There are three assessments being administered in Rhode Island this year: Reading, Mathematics, and Writing (at grade 8 only). The assessment window is Jan 30 – March 10<sup>th</sup>. Specific assessment dates for schools will be provided in June. This year the school sample was drawn early so schools and districts would have a better chance to prepare. I have provided NAEP with all district calendars so hopefully there will be minimum date changes this year. When dates are available, I will notify you.

**SAMPLING ISSUE:** This year promises to have another large sampling of students at both the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. I have started to pursue a “take all” option for 8<sup>th</sup> grades in our state and, before I go any further, would like to know what you would prefer. As you know, sometimes not all students are selected to participate in NAEP and this creates problems for some schools as to what to do with the 20-30 students that are not participating in the tests. This “take all” option would eliminate that problem. There would be, essentially, no student sample – every 8<sup>th</sup> grade student in every middle school selected for NAEP would be taking the test. Fourth grades have this option already. **Please let me know your thoughts on this! Email me at [heather.agnew@ride.ri.gov](mailto:heather.agnew@ride.ri.gov).**

**NAEP WORKSHOP:** I am also planning a NAEP workshop this year for all schools selected to participate in the NAEP assessments. The tentative agenda would include NAEP results in Reading, Math, Writing, and Science, a short demonstration on the NAEP released items and how you can use them in your classrooms to enhance the GLEs and GSEs, planning for NAEP this year (what you really have to do and not do), meeting the NAEP Field staff and having a Q&A session, and explaining NAEP accommodations and when to include and exclude a student from participation. Dates under consideration for this workshop are **October 30<sup>th</sup> or November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006**. I know that this is very soon after the NECAP assessments. The NAEP field staff will begin work on planning the NAEP assessments shortly after this which is why we need to have it early. If you have any suggestions or issues you would like to address at the workshop, please let me know at [heather.agnew@ride.ri.gov](mailto:heather.agnew@ride.ri.gov).

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**NAEP WEBSITE:** Materials, emails, notices, etc., will be posted on our Assessment and Accountability website at: <http://www.ridoenet.net/assessment/NAEP/default.htm>

If you have any questions, please call me at (401) 222-8493 or at [heather.agnew@ride.ri.gov](mailto:heather.agnew@ride.ri.gov)

Thank you!

Cc: MaryAnn Snider, Director; Todd Flaherty, Deputy Commissioner; Superintendents; Assistant Superintendents; District Testing Coordinators

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